III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A blade for cutting meat, sausage or cheese and meat-like products, having a hub (9) and a cutting body (10), characterised in that the cutting body (10) comprises at least one cavity (4).

2. (Original) A blade according to claim 1, characterised in that it consists of a plurality of parts and/or the cutting body comprises two half-shells (2, 3).

3. A blade according to ~~either one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the cavity (4) is formed by the first half-shell (2) and the second half-shell (3).

4. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the cavity (4) is at least partially filled with a detection fluid.

5. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the cavity (4) is at least partially filled with a plastics filling.

6. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the cavity (4) comprises a reversibly closable opening (6).

7. A blade according to claim 6, characterised in that the opening (6) is suitable for producing an overpressure or reduced pressure in the cavity (4).

8. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the ratio of the hub width (N) to the external diameter of the cutting edge (D) is in the range from 1:3-1:100, preferably in the range from 1:4-1:70 and very particularly preferably in the range from 1:5-1:13.

9. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the hub width (N) amounts to 10-300 mm, preferably 15-150 mm.

10. A blade according to ~~any one of claims 2-9~~claim 2, characterised in that the half-shells are curved and in that the first half-shell (2) exhibits a smaller curvature than the second half-shell (3).

11. A blade according to ~~one any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the blade is a circular blade, a crescent-shaped blade or a helical blade.

12. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the cutting body (10) comprises two half-shells (2, 3) and a cutting edge (1).

13. A blade according to claim 12, characterised in that the cutting edge (1) is inserted between the half-shells (2, 3).

14. A blade according to ~~any one of claims 11-13~~claim 11, characterised in that the two half-shells (2, 3) exhibit the same diameter.

15. A blade according to ~~any one of claims 11-13~~claim 11, characterised in that one half-shell (2, 3) exhibits a larger diameter than the other half-shell (2, 3).

16. A blade according to ~~any one of claims 12-13~~claim 12, characterised in that the cutting edge (1) is made of hardened steel, high speed steel (HSS), hard metal or ceramics.

17. A blade according to ~~any one of claims 2-16~~claim 2, characterised in that the half-shells (2, 3) are made from steel, stainless steel, aluminium, titanium and high-strength plastics (fibre-reinforced).

18. A blade according to claim 15, characterised in that the edge area of the larger of the two half-shells (2) takes the form of a cutting edge (1).

19. A blade according to claim 18, characterised in that the larger half-shell (2) with cutting edge is made from hardened

steel or hard metal and in that the other half-shell (3) is made of stainless steel or aluminium.

20. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the components of the blade are connected together interlockingly, by material bonding and/or frictionally (7, 8).

21. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that the components of the blade are connected together in leakproof manner.

22. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that it comprises ribs, connecting webs and/or supporting materials between the half-shells (2, 3).

23. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that it comprises bushes (5) for balancing purposes.

24. A blade according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterised in that a temperature-control medium is arranged in at least one cavity, with which medium the blade may be at least partially temperature-controlled.

25. A slicing machine comprising a blade according to ~~any one of claims 1-24~~claim 1.

26. A method of producing blades with a cavity (4) in ~~the~~ a cutting body (10), characterised in that the blade comprises a hub (9) and in that the components of the blade (1, 2, 3, 9) are inserted in one another and connected together interlockingly, by material bonding and/or frictionally (7, 8).

27. A method of detecting leakage in blades with a cavity (4) in the cutting body (10), characterised in that the cavity (4) of the blade is at least partially filled with a detection fluid, which escapes from the blade if the cavity (4) has a leak.

28. A method according to claim 27, characterised in that the cavity, in which the detection fluid is located, is placed under overpressure.

29. A method according to claim 27, characterised in that the blade is exposed to a reduced pressure.

30. A method according to ~~any one of claims 27-29~~claim 27, characterised in that leakage is monitored when the blade is in operation.

31. A method according to ~~any one of claims 27-30~~claim 27, characterised in that escape of the detection fluid from the blade is detected with the aid of a suitable monitoring device.

32. A method according ~~to any one of claims 27-31~~claim 27, characterised in that the cutting process is terminated if the detection fluid is detected.